

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are now in the application. By this Response, claims 9 and 12 are amended to correct informalities Applicants discovered in preparing this response but not to limit the claim scope. Claims 1-8 and 13-20 have been withdrawn by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action makes a restriction between Group I, claims 9-12, drawn to an ionic liquid; and Group II, claims 1-8 and 13-20, drawn to a process for modifying ionic liquids.

Applicants elect Group I, claims 9-12, with traverse.

The Office Action, citing PCT rules 13-1 and 13-2, asserts that the two groups lack unity of invention because they lack the same or corresponding special technical features. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that International Application WO 98/47616 to Wasserscheid et al. suggests embodiments within the scope of the pending claims. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that formula R_nMX_{3-n} , set forth on page 4, line 15 of Wasserscheid can reasonably be considered to correspond to an ionic liquid of the general formula $[Q^+][BR^n(OR'')m^-]$ recited in claim 9. This assertion is incorrect.

Claim 9 recites, among other features, that $[Q^+]$ is a phosphonium and/or ammonium cation. At least this feature cannot reasonably be considered to be suggested by Wasserscheid. Instead, Wasserscheid suggests, at page 4, line 16, that M in formula R_nMX_{3-n} is selected from aluminum, gallium, boron, and iron(III). Wasserscheid fails to suggest that M is phosphor or nitrogen. Accordingly, Wasserscheid fails to suggest the above-quoted feature of claim 9.

Withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement, an action on the merits of all the claims and a Notice of Allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

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Response to December 19, 2008 Office Action
Response dated January 16, 2009

Docket No.: 13156-00067-US1

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 13156-00067-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 16, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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